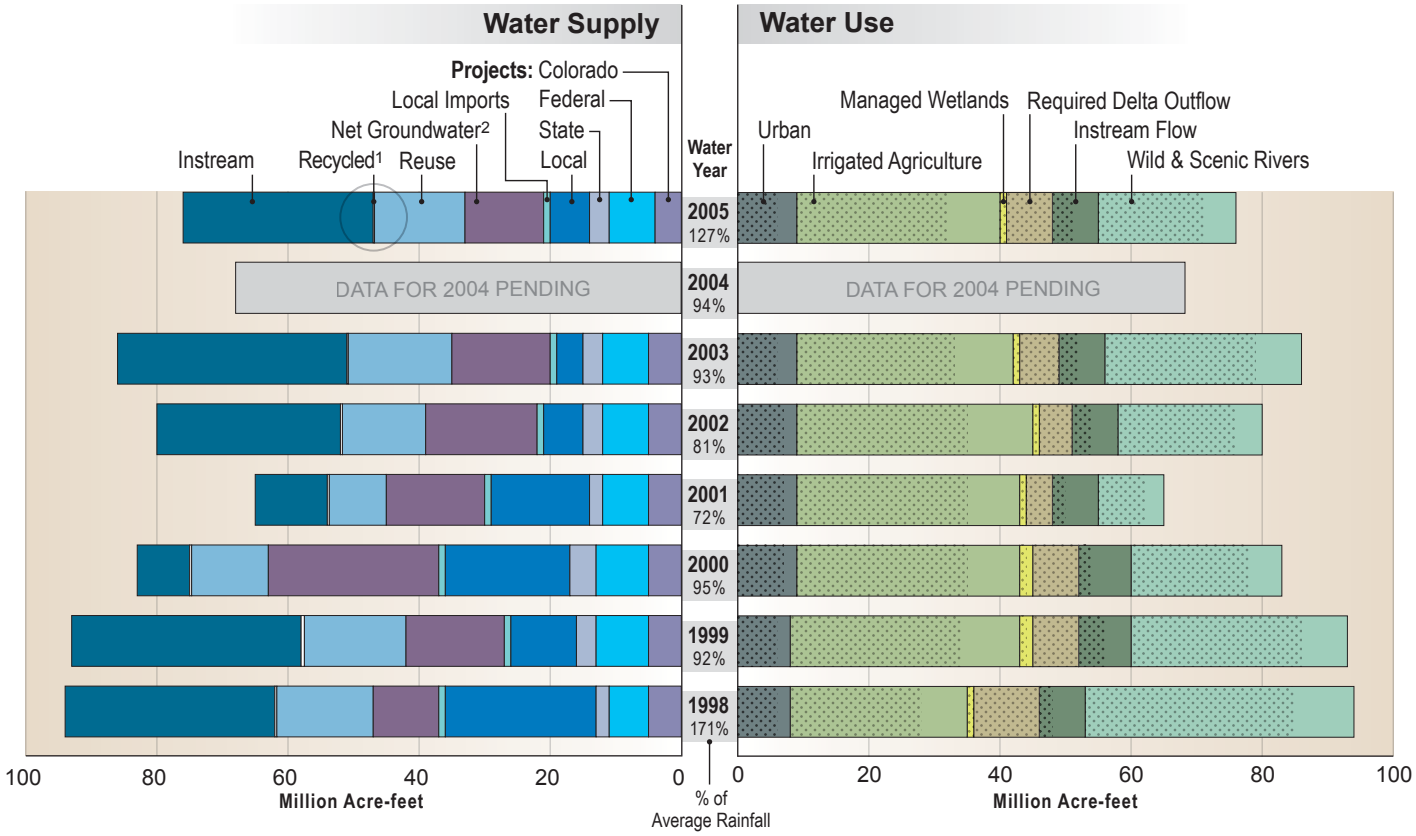
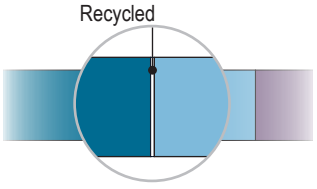
California's Water Resources

California Water Balance by Year

California's water resources vary significantly from year to year. Eight recent years show a sample of this variability for Water Supply and Water Use. The Water Supply shows where water comes from each year and the Water Use shows how applied water was used by urban and agricultural sectors and dedicated to the environment. On average, each year about 2 million acre-feet more groundwater is used than what naturally recharges (overdraft). In addition to what is shown, about 120 million acre-feet of precipitation and inflows in an average year either evaporates, is used by native vegetation, provides rainfall for agriculture and wetlands, or flows out of the state or to salt sinks like saline aquifers.





1 **Detail of bar graph:** *For water years 1998-2005, recycled municipal water varied from 0.2 to 0.5 MAF of the water supply .*

2 **Net Groundwater** - *Extraction in excess of percolation into groundwater basin (short-term) vs groundwater overdraft in which extraction exceeds what natural percolation replenishes over period of years (long-term).*

Indicates depleted (irrecoverable) water use *(water consumed through evapotranspiration, flowing to salt sinks like saline aquifers, or otherwise not available as a source of supply)*